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WATER AND POWER

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

August 24, 2007

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MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

The Honorable Quentin L. Kopp  
Chairman, California High-Speed Rail Authority  
925 "L" Street, Suite 1425  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Judge Kopp:

In January 1863, the Central Pacific Railroad broke ground in Sacramento to start the Transcontinental Railroad which would finally link the East and the West of the United States. This project took 6 years to complete, but revolutionized the way American's traveled in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Today, California is on the threshold of another transportation first: an inter-modal high-speed rail system.

California is known throughout the world as a leader in many things. Our movies entertain families, our national parks offers breathtaking views and our farmers feed people across the U.S. and the globe. We have a transportation system which is known for its vast and intricate systems design. Sadly, our transportation systems are now outdated and nearing their breaking point. While our leaders were wise in building a high-quality freeway system following World War II, we are now running out of room to build large freeways or expand our airports. California's projected population is expected to rise to 50 million by 2020. This growth will require new modes of transportation to ease transportation congestion and its associated impact on the environment across our state. We can not afford to wait to address these future realities.

As you are well aware, Europe and other nations are way ahead of us when it comes to rail travel. In order for California to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, there are still many steps which need to happen for high-speed rail to become a reality for us. First, Californians must pass a \$9 billion bond measure next November to help start funding development and construction of a high-speed rail system. I take great pride in being the original author of this \$9 billion High Speed Rail bond measure that was first scheduled to be on the ballot in 2004. Unfortunately, this measure has been removed from the ballot the past two election cycles. It is vital that the Governor allows this proposition to remain on the November 2008 ballot. Secondly, the private sector must step up and be willing to pick up another third of the project; much like the Big Four did to fund the Central Pacific line of the Transcontinental Railroad in the 1860s.

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*The Honorable Quentin L. Kopp*  
*August 23, 2007*

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Finally, federal financing will need to be established to cover approximately one-third of the project cost. Major transportation and infrastructure projects are not new to the federal government. Along with the Transcontinental Railroad, the 20<sup>th</sup> Century also saw a major investment in infrastructure when the Interstate Highway System was built. President Eisenhower saw the need for an improved and efficient way to not only move military supplies and troops on the ground, but for Americans to travel the nation with greater ease, promoting an increase in commerce between states.

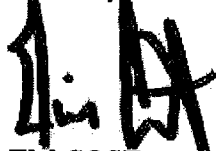
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Currently, I am working on federal authorizing legislation to ensure federal funding is available for high-speed rail when we need it. This authorization language will also provide the ability for other regions in our country designated as high-speed rail corridors to begin building their own systems. I am confident that the federal government will not only achieve support from the California delegation, but from representatives across the nation.

Being a strong supporter of high-speed rail, I am looking forward to watching High Speed Rail being adopted, developed and constructed in our state. Under your leadership, the California High-Speed Rail Authority has put California years ahead of the rest of the nation, and I am confident you will continue to lead the Authority through the challenges still facing it. I look forward to working with you to see high-speed rail becoming a reality in California.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Costa", written over a horizontal line.

JIM COSTA  
Member of Congress